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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" When this matter came up for discussion in this House some months ago, did not the hon. the Home Member promise to consider the question of returning the *thali* to Mrs. Prabhu without any application from her?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" As a matter of fact we asked the Superintendent of the Jail to ascertain from Mrs. Prabhu whether she would take back the *thali*. She said ' no.' Therefore the *thali* is kept there and Mrs. Prabhu can take it whenever she wants it."

Alleged beating of Kunhambu Adiyodi and P. Raman by the Reserve Police, South Kanara, on 2nd March 1932.

* 81 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt : With reference to question No. 1072 answered on 21st March 1932 regarding the beating of Kunhambu Adiyodi and P. Raman on 2nd March 1932 in Kanhangod, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received the report in connexion with Dr. Pai's letter regarding the same; if so, what the report received regarding the same is and whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place a copy of the same on the table of the House;

(*b*) whether the report is merely the statement of the Police or result of any enquiry that has been held; if so, who were the persons examined by the enquiring officer;

(*c*) whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of Dr. Pai's letter to the hon. the Home Member together with the certificate of injuries given by the medical officer in charge of the Kanhangod Hospital showing that Kunhambu Adiyodi had received 56 injuries and P. Raman 21 injuries; and

(*d*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The facts as reported by the District Magistrate are as follows. On the forenoon of the 2nd March 1932 a procession consisting of some volunteers and a crowd of about 30 persons went along the road headed by the two volunteers referred to in Dr. Pai's letter, shouting revolutionary slogans and distributing leaflets. They were stopped by the Police and after warning were ordered to disperse. On their refusal to obey, they were dispersed and the two volunteers in question received injuries. The two volunteers then walked to the railway station about three-fourths of a mile away to take train to their homes. Subsequently they returned in a car with Dr. Ganesh Pai between 12 and 1 p.m. and were admitted to the Local Fund Dispensary at 3 p.m. which is the hour at which the doctor comes to the hospital. One was discharged on the second day of admission and the other on the third day.

As regards the allegations in Dr. Pai's letter, it is not true to say that the crowd began to collect only when the volunteers were stopped on the road by the reserve police. Lathis were not used to disperse the crowd but only canes. There is no reason to suppose that the volunteers were raised and beaten after they fell down on the ground or that they were dragged along the road or were left on the road unconscious about 1½ furlongs away to the north of the hospital. The volunteers while being caned fell down feigning unconsciousness but within a couple of minutes got up and walked off. They did not want to go to the hospital, so the police did not compel them to go.

(*b*) The District Magistrate satisfied himself by enquiry that the report of the incident sent by the police was correct. No public enquiry was made.

(*c*) A copy [a] of Mr. Pai's letter is laid on the table. No certificates were given by the medical officer. The accident register shows that the two persons received 49 and 20 contusions respectively.

(*d*) Instructions have been issued that no more force should be used in the dispersal of crowds than is necessary to effect dispersal.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt :—" With reference to clause (*b*), may I know whether the District Magistrate held any enquiry and examined Dr. Pai, the complainant or anybody else?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I cannot say. But I may say one thing that the general conduct of the police in South Kanara is now under enquiry by the Inspector-General. There are also certain cases pending in law courts. When all these are over, Government will consider whether any action is necessary."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" Do the Government consider the volunteers receiving 20 and 49 contused wounds, respectively, a reasonable use of force?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " Whatever the Government may or may not consider, I have already said that the Government have ordered an enquiry into the matter. When the report is received we will consider whether any action is necessary. In the meantime the District Superintendent of Police has been transferred and we have posted an experienced District Superintendent of Police. Everything is quiet now."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know who is going to hold the enquiry and whether evidence will be taken from people who are willing to tender evidence?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 245 infra.

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Inspector-General of Police is making a departmental enquiry."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Will the enquiry be a public one?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is a departmental enquiry."

Alleged beating of picketers on 4th May 1932 at Bezwada.

* 82 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that on 4th May 1932 the volunteers who were picketing foreign cloth shops peacefully with national flags in Bezwada were escorted by the sergeant and the police to the Krishna river bund and detained there till about 11 a.m. and then subjected to a severe cane and lathi charge;

(*b*) whether Balipalli Appalaswami and others who had so received injuries are treated in the Peoples Hospital; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to call for a statement from the medical officer in charge of the hospital regarding the number and the nature of their injuries and place them on the table of the House; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU:—"Have the Government received the information at least now?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Alleged petition to the Collector of South Kanara, dated 21st May 1932, regarding police excesses.

* 83 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. K. Sundara Rao, B.A., LL.B., and several others sent a statement or a petition, dated 21st May 1932, to the Collector of South Kanara detailing the excesses committed by the police and the forest guards on the Congress volunteers who went to break the Forest Laws in the Herur Reserve Forest of Coondapoor taluk on 16th May 1932; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place a copy of the same on the table of the House;

(*b*) whether the Collector of South Kanara enquired into the said petition; if so, what the result of the same is; and on whose evidence the enquiry is based; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?